



Dear Arkansas Art Educator,

As First Lady of Arkansas, one of my primary initiatives is to promote the arts in our great state. That's why Governor Hutchinson and I are very proud to announce the **2016 Governor's Young Artist Exhibit Competition!**

In conjunction with the Governor's Mansion Association, we will be hosting a statewide juried exhibition for Arkansas' talented high school artists. Beginning **January 4, 2016**, high school students from across Arkansas are invited to submit their drawings, paintings, prints and mixed media assemblages in conjunction with the chosen artist theme outlined below. The collective goal of the exhibition is to inspire our state's young artists by providing them with a platform for their work, which will be displayed and recognized at the Governor's Mansion in April 2016.

All the important submission deadlines and other information is outlined below. We greatly appreciate your help in getting the word out about our competition and look forward to receiving wonderful works of art from our state's bright and talented young artists.

Sincerely,

Susan Hutchinson
First Lady of Arkansas

Eligibility:

All public, private, charter and home-schooled high school students (Grades 9-12) who reside in Arkansas are eligible.

2016 Competition's Theme: BRIDGES

Facing challenges is a part of life. Challenges may be physical, emotional, cultural, personal, institutional or in the area of communications. How do you see these challenges in your everyday life, or in the world around you? Where are the barriers? What might be the bridges? The possibilities to this year's theme are limitless. Here are a few prompts that might be helpful to consider:

1. What may be a barrier that prevents movement, understanding or connection?
2. What means, connections or structures can bridge obstacles or create new pathways?

3. Where can bridges be found? When can bridges find you?

Submission Requirements:

- Artwork must be submitted by a high school teacher or representative
- Each high school teacher/representative may submit up to 15 pieces of artwork. Please note that this is a juried show. Entries are NOT guaranteed acceptance.
- There are NO fees associated with submission
- ANY piece created by students at any time during their high school education may be submitted. However, reproductions are NOT allowed.

Media Specifications:

- Work must not exceed 40 inches wide by 40 inches high.
- Work must be physical, tangible, and available to be displayed for the duration of the exhibition. All winning submissions must be ready to hang for a professional gallery. No tape with wire or string will be allowed. Pastel and charcoal drawings must be sprayed with fixative.

How to Submit Artwork:

ALL entries MUST BE EMAILED submissions with medium resolution images. Resolution is sufficient when the image is easily viewed on an average size computer monitor. Keep the images free of identifying information (artist name, etc.) as this information will require cropping of the image.

ENTRIES ARE ONLY ACCEPTED VIA EMAIL.

ALL artwork must be submitted to: sharon.morris@governor.arkansas.gov.

Entries MUST be received no later than, 6 p.m., February 26, 2016.

Important Dates:

***February 26, 2016 - DEADLINE** for emailed submissions

***March 14, 2016** -Teachers/schools will be notified if submissions are selected for exhibition.

***March 24, 2016** - Selected works must be delivered to the Mansion by this date.

***April 4, 2016** - The exhibition will be held and will be open to the public. Gallery hours TBA.

***April 23, 2016** - Awards Reception/Recognition ceremony will be held for students, their parents and Art teachers at the Governor's Mansion, 1-2 p.m.

For more information, contact Sharon Morris at sharon.morris@governor.arkansas.gov